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LEOMINSTER & WIGMORE RURAL DISTRICT

Herefordshire



Joint

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Public Health Inspector

for the year 1956

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December, 1956)

H.E. Shuker (Chairman of the Council) ...	Bodenham
D.F.E. Griffiths (Vice-Chairman of the Council) ...	Wigmore
A. Allen ...	Brimfield
C. Barker ...	Lingen and Willey
G.H. Bayliss ...	Richards Castle
F. Baxter ...	Brimfield
R.J. Bemand (Chairman of the Housing Committee) ...	Humber
Mrs. E.F. Burns ...	Aston (or Pipe Aston) Elton & Leinthall
Miss N.E.M. Chambers ...	Starkes Hatfield & New Hampton
A.F. Downes ...	Bodenham
E.M. Duggan ...	Kimbolton
E.N. Griffiths ...	Lingen and Willey
P.K. Griffiths ...	Stoke Prior and Ford Bridge
A.W. Henderson ...	Leintwardine
Lt. Col. H. Ingleby ...	Pudleston
J.L. James ...	Luston
A.C. Jones ...	Aymestrey
S.T. Jones ...	Aymestrey
G.H. Langford ...	Kingsland
A.E. Mason ...	Wigmore
S. Meredith ...	Shobdon

J.H. Morgan	...	...	...	...	Eyton
P.H. Morris	...	...	...	...	Brampton Bryan and Buckton & Coxall
T.G. Nicholls	...	...	...	...	Middleton-on-the-Hill
Mrs. E.E. Powell	...	...	...	...	Monkland
T.J. Price	...	...	...	...	Little Hereford and Upton
S.T. Priday	...	...	...	...	Adforton, Stanway, Payton & Grange, Walford, Letton & Newton
D.A. Prosser	...	...	...	...	Eye, Moreton & Ashton
W.J. Rees	...	...	...	...	Lucton and Croft
W.G.P. Richards	...	...	...	...	Yarpole
Mrs. D.M. Smith	...	...	...	...	Little Hereford and Upton
H. Taylor (Chairman of the Water Supply Committee)					Docklow and Hampton Wafre
G.P. Thomas	...	...	...	...	Hope-under-Dinmore and Newton
J.B. Thomas	...	...	...	...	Burrington & Downton
W. Haydn Thomas	...	...	...	...	Leintwardine
R.W. Turley	...	...	...	...	Brampton Bryan and Buckton & Coxall
Mrs. E.N. Wheeler	...	...	...	...	Kingsland
W.N. Whitehead	...	...	...	...	Adforton, Stanway, Payton & Grange, Walford, Letton & Newton
R.R. Worthing (Chairman of the Finance Committee)					Orleton
E.B. Yapp	...	...	...	...	Leysters

Clerk to the Council .. H.C. Smith

Medical Officer of Health	I.F. MACKENZIE, M.D.(Edin), D.P.H., D.T.M. & H., (resigned 31.10.56)
Acting Medical Officer of Health	Ditto (from 1.11.56)
Public Health Inspector	G.E. BULL, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.San.I.,
Pest Officer	GEOFFREY E. BULL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Loominster & Wigmore Rural
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for 1956, which has been prepared jointly by the Public Health Inspector and myself.

Though there were no outbreaks of infectious disease of a major or serious character during the year, a minor epidemic of Scarlet Fever occurred. Twentysix cases were notified, and of these, thirteen were from one parish; the remainder from six other parishes. None of the cases was severe, but as isolation in the home was not always possible, several were removed to hospital. As I have said before, the severity of this disease appears to have diminished, and effective treatment, for example, by penicillin, is readily available with the result that many uncomplicated cases can be safely treated at home. Nevertheless, in order to limit the opportunities for persons who had been in close contact with these cases to spread the disease, those engaged in food trades were temporarily excluded from work. One case of Paralytic Poliomyelitis occurred within the district. Research into the methods by which this disease is usually disseminated throughout a community after the occurrence of the first cases, points to personal hygiene as being of paramount importance. The adoption of "house and garden" quarantine which aims at localising infection, was therefore recommended to all who had been in close, household contact with the case. No other cases occurred, so it may be that our efforts to limit the possibility of spreading the disease were, in this instance anyhow, successful. But, on the other hand, one has to bear in mind that the occurrence of Poliomyelitis is frequently quite inexplicable; and that sporadic cases, entirely unconnected with other known cases, appear in our midst from time to time.

The appointment of Dr. O.L. Evans as District Medical Officer of Health for the Northern Districts and as Assistant County Medical Officer, was made on December 5th, 1956. It was arranged that he would commence duty on March 1st, 1957, on which date my temporary appointment as Acting Medical Officer of Health will terminate.

In view of my recent change of appointment, this will be the last annual report that I shall present to you as your Medical Officer of Health. I shall retain very warm memories of my years of service, and of the happy relations that exist among officers and between members of the council and staff, - a spirit of harmony that contributes much to the effectiveness of work in the local government service.

I.F. MACKENZIE

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Office: 4, Church Street, Loominster.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	94,101
Population	...	...	...	...	10,130
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1956) according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	...	3,097
Rateable Value...	...	...	...	...	£71,183
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£270

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	...	151	78	73
(Illegitimate)	...	9	4	5
Total	...	<u>160</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>78</u>
STILL BIRTHS (Legitimate)	...	2	1	1
DEATHS	...	112	60	52
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	...	Nil		
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE	...	3	-	3

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1956.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	15.8
Birth Rate for England and Wales	15.7
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total live and still births)	12.3
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	23.0
Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population)	11.1
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	18.8
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	23.8

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTIONS

WATER SUPPLIES

Public Supplies

Leintwardine. The new pumping and filtration plant is not yet in operation. The supply has been maintained throughout the year and frequent analyses of the water have given satisfactory results.

Other Public Supplies. All other public supplies are working satisfactorily.

The Parishes with piped supplies are as follows:-

Leintwardine	...	shallow well
Wigmore	...	Borehole
Adforton	...	Borehole
Lingen	...	Borehole
Luston and Eyton	...	Borehole
Shobdon, Aymestrey, Yatton	...	River
Richards Castle	...	Borehole
Brampton Brian	...	Spring

Sampling

One hundred and fiftythree samples of water for bacteriological analysis were taken during the year and sent to the Laboratory at Hereford. These samples produced the following results.

Satisfactory.....116
Unsatisfactory.....37

Total.....153

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage Disposal Works on council house estates have received frequent inspection. These plants are working satisfactorily. The Settling Tank at Brimfield is to be enlarged. The contents of the Settling and Humus Tanks are removed at regular intervals, ensuring efficient operation.

Sewage disposal in the district is mainly by private septic tanks and filter beds; in other cases by the conservancy system.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

No pollution of any river or stream occurred during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION

A satisfactory house-to-house refuse collection is carried out by the Local Authority. Collections are made twice monthly in the larger parishes, and once a month in the smaller ones.

Tips are situated at Shobdon; Fidler's Elbow, Leintwardine; Bodenham, and Brimfield.

DISINFECTION - INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Twentyeight inspections and re-inspections were made in connection with infectious disease, and disinfection was carried out in fourteen houses.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Sixtyfive inspections have been made at various factories with and without mechanical power in the district. Three informal notices have been served for minor defects. Two of these were for want of cleanliness, and one for insufficient sanitary conveniences. On the whole the regulations are carried out satisfactorily.

Number of Factories on Register.....49

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

A survey of all premises is being carried out under the above Act. Private dwelling houses are treated free of charge. The sewers were test baited, but no evidence of rats was found. Refuse Tips and sewer outfalls received periodic treatment.

	Type of Property				Agricul- tural.
	Non-Agricultural				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All Other (includg. Business Premises)	Total	
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District.	7	2491	190	2688	560
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	-	28	2	30	-
(b) Survey under the Act	7	411	88	506	204
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	-	141	42	183	41
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. II) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats Major	-	7	-	7	9
Minor	6	94	7	107	41
(b) Mice Major	-	25	4	29	3
Minor	-	-	-	-	-
V. Number of infested properties (in Sect. IV) treated by the Local Authority	6	126	-	132	-
VI. Total treatments carried out - including re- treatments	25	126	-	151	-
VII. Number of notices served under Sect. 4 of the Act (Treatment and Structural Work)	-	-	-	-	-
X. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	-	3	-	3	-

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

List of inspections made under various Acts and Orders and under enactments governing Meat and Food.

Inspections, etc. under	Number	Informal Notices Served	Statutory Notices Served	Notices complied with
Housing & Public Health Acts	345	115	3	106
Factories Acts	65	3	-	3
Milk Regulations, 1949	51	-	-	-
Bakehouses	26	2	-	2
Food Premises	394	7	-	7
Schools	25	-	-	-
Water Supplies	173	19	-	18
Infectious Disease	28	-	-	-
Knackers Yard	58	3	-	3
Hop-Pickers Quarters	12	2	-	2

HOUSING

No Council houses were completed by the Local Authority during the year.

The number of houses built by private persons during the year was eight.

INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts ... 197
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 345
2. Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 115

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY NOTICES DURING THE YEAR

Proceedings under Public Health Acts... Nil

Notices Issued

Informal ... 115

Statutory ... 3

DEFECTS REMEDIED

The following list relates to major defects only which were remedied, or in connection with which repairs were carried out

Spouting repaired	51	Pumps repaired	1
Roofs	53	Defective floors	55
Drains	75	Windows repaired	56
Septic Tanks	63	Doors repaired	54
Dampness	11	Chimneys repaired	51
W.Cs: provided	60	Plaster repaired	44
Defective Cesspools	1	Defective cooking stoves etc.	52
New sinks fitted	56	Stairs repaired	3
Baths fitted	54	Pantries provided	2
W.Cs. repaired	1	Foul Earth Closets	1
Defective wells	8	Washing facilities provided	52
New wells	11	Other Nuisances	2

HOUSING ACT, 1949 (Improvement Grants)

Thirtynine grants were made during the year for improvements to private dwelling houses.

VAN DWELLINGS

There are several van dwellings in the district. Most of those of the permanent type are situated in Abbey Lane, Leintwardine, and have their own water supply and drainage. The remainder are of a temporary nature and are privately owned. In general, they obtain their water from the nearest dwelling and use chemical closets.

CAMPING SITES

Where camping does occur in the district, it is only for short periods.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Three hundred and ninetyfour inspections were made at various foodshops in the district. Seven notices were served, and the improvements required were carried out. The undermentioned food was condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

Tinned Fruit	...	229 lb.	Bacon	...	41 lb.
" Vegetables	...	27 lb.	Meat	...	670 lb.
" Milk	...	5 lb.	Cooked Meat	...	27 lb.
" Meat	...	41 lb.	Pies	...	48 lb.
" Soup	...	20 lb.	Sausages...	...	42 lb.
" Fish	...	10 lb.	Jam	...	4 lb.
			Semolina...	...	6 lb.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

Two licences were renewed during the year for private slaughter houses in the district.

NUMBER AND TYPE OF FOOD PREMISES

(a)	GROCERS (including sale of fruit, fish, game, vegetables, and pre-packed ice-cream)	...	...	...	26
(b)	SWEETS AND SUGAR CONFECTIONARY (including sale of pre-packed ice-cream)	...	...	Included in ...	(a)
(c)	RESTAURANTS & CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS (including fish and chip fryers, and sale of pre-packed ice-cream)	...	...	...	6
(d)	LICENSED PREMISES (hotels, inns, & clubs)	...	...	...	24
(e)	BAKERS AND CONFECTIONERS	...	...	...	2
(f)	BUTCHERS	...	...	...	5
(g)	CENTRAL KITCHEN for SCHOOL MEALS	...	...	...	1
(h)	CORN STORES AND SHOPS	...	...	...	5
(i)	MOBILE CANTEEN (Stall)	...	...	...	1

NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 of the FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

(j)	<u>Sale of pre-packed ice-cream</u>				
	Grocers	...	...	...	17
	Restaurants	...	...	...	3
	Confectioners	...	...	...	1
	Butchers	...	...	...	1
(k)	<u>Preparation or Manufacture of Sausages, or Potted, Pressed, Pickled or Preserved Food.</u>				
	Butchers	...	...	...	1

MILK SUPPLY

Number of Dairies registered under the Milk and
Dairies Regulations, 1949 (excluding farm dairies) 4

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

Meat - to the Knackers Yard.
Other Foods - by burial.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955 - 6.

All food premises received a printed abstract of
the provisions of the regulations, and visits were made
in connection with the carrying out of the new regulations.

Seven informal notices were served under the
regulations.

MEAT

There are two licensed slaughter houses in the district, and are both situated at Leintwardine.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part are set out in the following table.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	283	4	62	1245	173	Nil
Number inspected	260	4	51	1184	161	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	3	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	20	-	-	42	8	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	7.7%	-	1.9%	3.8%	5.6%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.38%	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSES OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	Age of Patient								TOTAL
	0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & Over	Unknown	
Scarlet Fever	-	2	1	8	10	1	4	-	26
Whooping Cough	1	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	8
Measles	1	6	7	25	5	1	1	-	46
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	4
Acute Polio- myelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	33
(Non-Pulmonary)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1956 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of forty-eight males and thirty-three females who normally reside within the district.

During the year four new cases were notified, three Pulmonary and one Non-Pulmonary, and one Pulmonary case moved into the district. During the same period five persons recovered, and four left the district.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946, Section 26 Vaccination and Immunisation

Number of children in the district who were treated during the year:

Age at date of immunisation or vaccination	Immunisation against Diphtheria	Immunisation against Whooping Cough	Vaccination against Smallpox
Under 1 year	36	28	71
1 year	43	26	1
2 years	4	2	-
3 years	1	-	1
4 years	3	2	-
5 - 9 years	27	-	-
10 - 14 years	8	-	-
15 years & over	-	-	3
TOTAL	122	58	76
Reinforcing Injections	212	-	5

Vaccination and Immunisation are a County Council responsibility and the figures given above have been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	TOTAL
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	3	11	14
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	1	-	1
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	7	13
Coronary disease, angina ...	5	1	6
Other heart disease	19	14	33
Other circulatory disease ...	1	4	5
Pneumonia	3	1	4
Bronchitis	5	4	9
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	1	4
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	3	6
Motor vehicle accidents ...	2	-	2
All other accidents	3	-	3
All causes	60	52	112

